

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 01351 042122Z

66

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 STR-01 OPR-01 SY-04 /068 W

----- 025534

R 042053Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7531

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1351

DEPT PASS ALL ARA CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETRD VE US

SUBJ: VIEWS OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT ON U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN
RELATIONS AND SPECIFICALLY U.S. TRADE ACT

1. DURING A 40 MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ FOR THE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING MY OLD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE JAMES THEBERGE, WHO IS HEAD OF THE LATIN AMERICAN STUDY GROUP SERVING VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S COMMISSION ON CRITICAL CHOICES FOR AMERICANS, THE VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HELD OUT AT GREAT LENGTH OVER HIS CONCERN AT DETERIORATING U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS.

2. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE HAD NO DIFFICULTY AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL OR IN DEALING WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE USG. HOWEVER, HE WAS INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA IN GENERAL THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WERE BECOMING DISAFFECTED WITH THE UNITED STATES. IN AN ASIDE HE SAID THAT THIS WAS MANIFESTED EVERY DAY IN VENEZUELA AS WE OURSELVES MIGHT HAVE NOTICED IN DEMONSTRATIONS THIS MORNING MOUNTED BY THE MIR AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. (I SAID THAT FOR THIS REASON WE HAD COME TO THE PALACE BY FORD AND NOT BY OFFICIAL CADILLAC.) THE PRESIDENT ADDED THAT LARGER AND MORE IMPORTANT OPPOSITION PARTIES SUCH AS COPEI DID NOT HESITATE IN TAKING SIDES WITH THE MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY SOUGHT TO ATTACK THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 01351 042122Z

3. THE PRESIDENT THEN SET OUT ON HIS WELL-TROD PATH DENOUNCING THE U.S. TRADE ACT. HE SAID NOT ONLY WAS VENEZUELA INJURED BY THIS LEGISLATION BUT OTHER LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLICS AS WELL. HERE HE CITED THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS AND BRAZIL, ADDING THAT HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED AND PLEASED WHEN THE PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL SUPPORTED HIS STAND AGAINST THE TRADE ACT AND HAD CAUSED PEREZ'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF ECUADOR TO BE PUBLISHED IN BRAZILIAN PAPERS.

4. CAP COMPLAINED (SEE HIS GENERAL COMMENT ON OAS IN CARACAS 1352) THAT THE COMBINED LATIN AMERICAN GRIEVANCE AGAINST THE TRADE ACT IN OAS HAD "BEEN IGNORED" BY THE U.S.

5. THE PRESIDENT ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY CHANCE OF MODIFYING THE U.S. TRADE ACT, TO WHICH THEBERGE REPLIED THAT, AS HE KNEW, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD INDEED OPPOSED CERTAIN OF THE MORE DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS OF THE ACT, BUT HE MUST BE AWARE THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WAS A SEPARATE BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT, AND IT WAS NOT EASY TO PREDICT WHAT THAT CONGRESS MIGHT DO IN TERMS OF ULTIMATELY REVISING THE ACT.

6. COMMENT: THERE WAS NOTHING IN CAP'S ATTITUDE TO DIMINISH OUR FEELING THAT, DESPITE FREQUENT ASSEVERATIONS OF "NO DESIRE TO FIGHT THE UNITED STATES," THE PRESIDENT RELISHES HIS ROLE OF DAVID AGAINST GOLIATH.

MCCLINTOCK

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA CAPTIALS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE LAW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA01351
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750041-0436
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750275/aaaacprg.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT ON U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS AND SPECIFICALLY U.S. TRADE ACT
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, VE, US, XM, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006